

REMARKS

Claims 27 and 31 stand rejected. These claims have been canceled to facilitate prosecution of the instant application without prejudice. Accordingly, these rejections no longer apply.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 31 was objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 33 is submitted herewith that incorporates all of the limitations of claims 27 and 31, with minor non-substantive grammatical changes.

Claims 34 and 40 are submitted herewith as representing alternative embodiments of allowable claim 33, and are supported throughout the specification. Accordingly, these claims do not introduce new matter, nor are they believed to raise any new issues of patentability.

SUMMARY

If the Examiner believes that it would facilitate prosecution, Applicants' Attorney, Laurie A. Axford, may be contacted at (619) 230-7714 or at laxford@gordonrees.com.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1990 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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